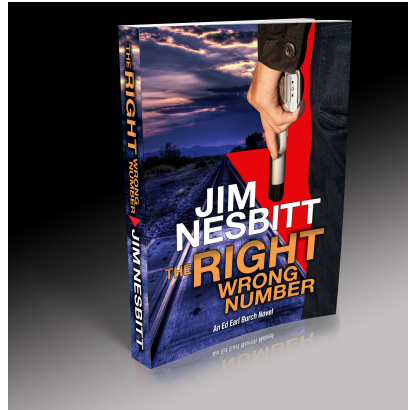


## "Right Wrong Number" by Jim Nesbitt



*When the phone rings long after midnight, it spells trouble of the lethal kind for Ed Earl Burch. A cashiered homicide detective with bad knees, a wounded liver and an empty bank account, Burch has been hired to protect an old flame after the disappearance of her husband, a high-flying Houston financier who ripped off his clients, including some deeply unsavory gentlemen from New Orleans.*

*It's a simple job that goes wrong fast, plunging Burch into a ruthless contest where nothing is as it seems and no one can be trusted. Money and sex— twin temptations served up by the old flame, a rangy strawberry blonde with a violent temper and a terminal knack for larceny and betrayal—tempt Burch to break his own rules. But when his best friend gets murdered by hired muscle in Dallas, Burch blames himself and grimly sets out for vengeance.*

In *The Right Wrong Number*, well-traveled correspondent and award-winning novelist Jim Nesbitt takes readers on a tour de force that races from the gleaming towers of Houston to the stark desert mountains of the Texas Big Bend country and northern Mexico. Gritty and remorseless, hard-hitting and hard-boiled, *The Right Wrong Number* features an indelible protagonist, Dallas private eye Ed Earl Burch. He's smart, tough, profane and reckless: Ed Earl Burch is nobody's hero—and nobody's fool.

Bristling with relentless action, a pulse-racer of a plot, a solid storyline, and a colorful cast of characters, *The Right Wrong Number* is hard-boiled detective fiction at its finest. With his pitch-perfect voice and keen eye for detail, Jim Nesbitt uses the skills honed over decades of deadline journalism to create an extraordinary story centered on a protagonist like no other: the deeply flawed but wildly compelling Ed Earl Burch. A taut, tense, uncompromising tale of revenge and redemption, *The Right Wrong Number* is a damned good story exceptionally well-told.

Nesbitt has received high praise, including:

“Nesbitt channels the lyricism of James Crumley, the twisted kick of Jim Thompson, and the cold, dark heart of Mickey Spillane.” – Jayne Loader, author of *Wild America*

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"If Chandler's noir was a neon sign in the LA sunset, Nesbitt's noir is the Shiner Bock sign buzzing outside the last honky-tonk you'll hit before the long drive to the next one. Roll down the window; it's a hot night. It's a fast ride."

– James Lileks, author of *The Casablanca Tango*

"In Burch, Nesbitt has created a more angst-ridden and bad-ass version of Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch and a Tex-Mex landscape much meaner than the streets of LA." –Bob Morris, Edgar Award nominee and author of *Baja Florida*

## Where can I get a copy?:

Amazon links: <https://amazon.com/author/jimnesbitt> & Search for "Right Wrong Number" by Jim Nesbitt through the Amazon store for your country.

Available in both print and e-book formats from 16 February 2017

## My Review:

\*\*\*\*\* Ed Earl Burch is back. Having sorted out his legal SNAFU following the Carla Sue/Bonafacio debacle, Burch is bogged down in debt, bland casework, and hot sex with unreliable women. He spends his spare time drinking whisky in the local dive bar, doing the "shouda, coulda, wouda" karaoke with the other bar flies, hoping for more, but accepting less. His unhappy equilibrium is shattered when former lover and scam artist Mrs **Savannah** Crowe, lures him into a dangerous job with promises of a big cash payout. Her husband has been murdered. At least it looks that way. And every shady business partner he shafted along the way is chasing Mrs Crowe for their cash. Will Burch solve the case without being arrested or killed? Will he manage to get the girl this time? And more importantly, will he get paid?

A great example of a modern, hard-boiled detective story "**The** Right Wrong Number" will appeal to lovers of the genre and Ed Earl fans alike. The book is replete with punchy dialogue, seedy characters, gratuitous sex and violence and all the good stuff we love to read. Another wonderful offering from Jim Nesbitt, author of "The Last Second Chance".

## A quick interview with Jim:

*Sarah: What inspired you to write a detective genre novel?*

Jim: I've always thought hard-boiled detective novels an art form. At their best, they're more than who-dun-its or thrillers, they're vehicles for a writer's observations about culture, politics, philosophy, music, history and a time or a place. Or life, it's ownself. When you read James Ellroy, Dashiell Hammett or James Lee Burke, their stories are always about far more than good guys chasing bad guys. That's the kind of book I wanted to write. When you write, you start with what you know. And I knew a little something about the border, Texas and Mexico from my journalism days. Knew some cops and redneck outlaws, too. And I knew I wanted to write a noirish detective novel. So I started with that and went from there. Out popped Ed Earl Burch.

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*Sarah: Who are your top three authors and how have they influenced your writing?*

Jim: Hard to pick just three because if you want to write and write well, you need to read – everything. You pick up clues and tradecraft from other writers, often subconsciously. And some are so good they make you weep with despair because you know you'll never reach their heights – Cormac McCarthy, for instance. When I was a youngster, it was Ernest Hemingway and Hunter S. Thompson. Thompson taught me to push boundaries and to be a wild-ass swashbuckler, which is what one of my editors called my style. Hemingway taught me discipline and the killer instinct – that steely ability to ditch everything but the best. Be willing to kill your word children, even the pretty ones, if they don't measure up and serve the story. These days, I'll read anything by James Lee Burke, Lawrence Sanders, Elmore Leonard and James Ellroy, who you lovingly poached in your review of my **first** book. I love Philip Kerr's Bernie Gunther books for the main character's unsinkable and cynical survival instincts and bitter humor. But the guy who has probably had the most influence on my writing is the late James Crumley, an underappreciated talent. His *Dancing Bear* and *The Last Good Kiss* are must-reads. And his main characters are battered, cynical and wise-ass survivors. They're both deeply flawed, but down deep decent guys who try to stay true to their personal sense of right and wrong.

*Sarah: Is Ed Earl Burch based on any particular person or character?*

Jim: Yeah, me. And most of my hard-drinking, cynical, smart-ass journalism buddies. We're a rude lot. And we're nobody's idea of anybody's hero. I think Ed Earl is a guy with whom most people can identify. He's a bit of an Everyman who has been smacked around by life. As a result, he's placed himself in a box of his own making; one he thinks will keep him from getting smacked again. He's dead wrong, of course. And when the shit hits the fan, he's surprised to find the grit and determination that made him a good cop are still there, giving him the strength to answer the call and survive. He's also cynical as hell and a smartass who can't help taking a whack at folks he doesn't like – even when he knows they'll whack him back.

*Sarah: Your female characters are a feisty bunch of women. Are they based on people you know or have come across in your working life?"*

Jim: Yes and no. All the women in my books are strong and sharp, know they're smarter than men and have an edge to them -- sometimes a murderous edge. A strong story demands strong characters of both genders. I've always been attracted to strong, smart, sharp-tongued women who know they're smarter and tougher than men and aren't shy about showing it. I find them endlessly fascinating, maddening, alluring and sometimes dangerous. They're a force of nature to be reckoned with and I'm usually four or five steps behind them on the uptake. So is Ed Earl. Women seem to like and love him anyway -- for reasons I don't fully understand.

*Sarah: Before we go, do you have any tips for up and coming authors?*

Jim: There's no magic bullet or easy shortcut. You just slap your butt down in the chair and get the words in your head down on paper. And when the words won't come, get up, take a walk, get a drink, get laid – then sit your butt back down in that chair and write.

# "Right Wrong Number" by Jim Nesbitt

## About the Author: Jim Nesbitt



For more than 30 years, Jim Nesbitt was a roving correspondent for newspapers and wire services in Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Washington, D.C. He chased hurricanes, earthquakes, plane wrecks, presidential candidates, wildfires, rodeo cowboys, ranchers, miners, loggers, farmers, migrant field hands, doctors, neo-Nazis and nuns with an eye for the telling detail and an ear for the voice of the people who give life to a story. He is a lapsed horseman, pilot, hunter and saloon sport with a keen appreciation for old guns, vintage trucks and tractors, good cigars, aged whiskey and a well-told story. He now lives in Athens, Alabama.



# "Right Wrong Number" by Jim Nesbitt

## Links:

Author Website: [www.jimnesbitthardboiledbooks.com](http://www.jimnesbitthardboiledbooks.com).

Amazon Author Page US: <https://amazon.com/author/jimnesbitt>

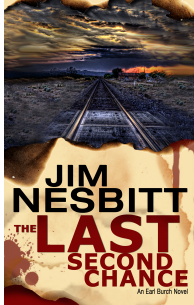
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Blog: <http://spottedmule.wordpress.com/>

Goodreads author profile:

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14971688.Jim\\_Nesbitt](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14971688.Jim_Nesbitt)

## Also by the Author:



Spotted Mule Press is an independent book publisher based in Alabama. Members of the news media wishing to request additional information about Jim Nesbitt or *The Right Wrong Number* are asked to contact Maryglenn McCombs by phone: (615) 297-9875, or by email: [maryglenn@maryglenn.com](mailto:maryglenn@maryglenn.com)